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Chandrayaan 3 begins its lunar voyage

BALA CHAUHAN @ Sriharikota

ISRO launched India's third unmanned mission to the moon, Chandrayaan 3, on board 43.5-metre-tall Launch Vehicle Mark-III-M4 (LVM3-M4) rocket from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) at 2.35 pm on Friday. The mission aims to soft-land near the lunar south pole on August 23 or 24.

The launch and its three-stage separations, which went off in copybook precision, were received with much cheer and applause from thousands of spec-

tators gathered at Sriharikota as well as scientists at the Mission Control Centre of SDSC.

The biggest cheer came precisely 16 minutes after the launch when the propulsion module carrying the lander and the rover separated from the third cryogenic stage of LVM3-M4 and was put in the intended orbit around the earth.

"Congratulations, India,"

ISRO chairman Sreedhara Panicker Somanath said after the successful launch and earth-orbit insertion of the propulsion module. "Chandrayaan 3 has started its journey towards the moon. Our dear LVM 3 has already put Chandrayaan 3 craft (the propulsion module) into a precise orbit around earth... and let us wish all the best for Chandrayaan 3

craft for its further orbit-raising maneuvers and travel towards the moon in the coming days," he said.

Over the next few days, the propulsion module will make five increasingly larger elliptical orbits around the earth, with the final orbit's farthest point being 36,500 km and closest point to earth being 170 km. The idea is to use the earth's gravity like a sling swung multiple times to gain momentum for its 3,84,400 km journey to the moon and get captured by the lunar gravity.

“The ‘Fat Boy’ has done its job. We are in the process of increasing the launch frequency of this vehicle considering the national requirements as well as satellite demands. Today’s mission was a ‘penance’ of many in ISRO — S Mohana Kumar, Mission director



ISRO's Launch Vehicle Mark-III M4 carrying Chandrayaan-3 lifts off from the launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, on Friday | 1500

HUMAN-RATED BOOSTER NOZZLES

ISRO tweaked the launch vehicle to test its ability to carry human passengers for the Gaganyaan project. The nozzles of the solid boosters, S200 and the Vikas L110 engines are human-rated in this launch, said mission director Mohan Kumar

COST FACTOR

Chandrayaan-1 (2008)	₹386 crore
Chandrayaan-2 (2019)	₹978 crore
Chandrayaan-3 (2023)	₹615 crore

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INDIA'S HOPES AND DREAMS: PM

PM Narendra Modi, who is in France, tweeted: "14th July, 2023 will always be etched in golden letters as far as India's space sector is concerned. Chandrayaan 3... will carry the hopes and dreams of our nation." Minister of State for Science & Technology Jitendra Singh, said, "Chandrayaan 3 is a tribute to the vision of Vikram Sarabhai, who carried the first-ever Indian rocket on a bicycle... Sarabhai had the vision and confidence, but the resources were limited then... Today India is a leading space country."

PM Modi receives highest French award, Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour

India-France roadmap for next 25 yrs

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

UNDERLINING that defence cooperation the pillar remains of Indo-French ties, India and France on Friday announced the joint development of jet and helicopter engines and the construction of three Scorpene submarines for the Indian Navy. The announcements were made after extensive talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron.

However, there was no word on the procurement of 26 naval variants of Rafale fighter jets.

The two countries have set 'bold and ambitious' goals to strengthen the strategic cooperation over the next 25 years, PM Modi said as he concluded his two-day visit to France.

"We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of our Strategic Partnership. On the strong foundation of the last 25 years, we are preparing a roadmap for the coming 25 years. We are setting bold and ambitious goals for this," Modi said at a joint press statement with French President Emmanuel Macron.

Modi also announced that a new Indian consulate will be opened in Marseilles.

In a joint statement, Macron highlighted the defence ties between India and France and



PM Narendra Modi takes part in the Bastille Day military parade with French Prez Emmanuel Macron and First Lady Brigitte | AFP

how Indian soldiers fought for the French. He said 30,000 French students will study in India by 2030, adding that the visa process will be simplified to allow Indian students to come and study in France.

Earlier in the day, Modi was conferred with the Grand Cross

of the Legion of Honour, France's highest civilian and military honour, becoming the first Indian PM to receive the coveted honour. The other dignitaries who received the honour include Nelson Mandela, King Charles and Angela Merkel.

EXPANDING DEFENCE COOPERATION

Prime Minister Modi said that India and France can look at jointly manufacturing key military platforms for friendly third countries as well

Patil: Will take steps to plug GST leakage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

MINISTER for Law, Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation, and Tourism HK Patil said on Friday that the state government will take steps to plug leakage in GST collection. He was replying to queries related to GST collection in the Assembly.

Cutting across party lines, members gave suggestions to the government on ensuring better tax collection as well as plugging leakage in the system. The Assembly on Friday passed Karnataka Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill. The minister said that the government is planning to oversee audits and keep a strict vigil on e-commerce operators to improve GST collection.

The Bill provides for penal provisions applicable to e-commerce operators relating to supply of goods through them by unregistered persons or composition taxpayers.

Patil said the provisions in the Bill will help overcome challenges in GST collection, especially on intra-state supply of goods. The Bill has 22 amendments — 16 for tax compliance and six for dealer-friendly initiatives.

Some senior leaders, including former CM Basavaraj Bommai (BJP), HD Revanna (JDS), Shivalinge Gowda (Congress) and former home minister Araga Jhanendra (BJP) suggested



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HK Patil, Law Minister

several measures to increase GST collection. They pointed out that many items are not under GST purview. All those items should be brought under the GST net.

Patil said in the last financial year, over 11,700 cases were inspected, where GST officials collected Rs 1,320 crore as penalty. They had launched a drive against bogus dealers and identified 1600 violations and nearly Rs 100 crore input tax credit was blocked.

Patil explained how tax collection increased after GST came into force. "In 2017-18, Rs 44,816 crore was collected and in 2022-23, it increased to Rs 81,848 crore. Karnataka recorded the highest GST collection in the first quarter of this year," he said.

Sons' petition against order for more allowance to mom junked

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE number of youngsters who have failed to look after their aged and ailing parents is increasing and it is not a happy development, Karnataka High Court has said.

Justice Krishna SDixit made this observation while rejecting a petition filed by Gopal and his brother Mahesh, residents of NR Mohalla in Mysuru, questioning the order passed by the deputy commissioner in May 2022 enhancing their mother's monthly maintenance allowance to Rs 10,000 from Rs 5,000.

The assistant commissioner awarded Rs 5,000 as monthly maintenance allowance in May 2019 for the duo's abandoned 84-year-old ailing mother Venkatamma under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act. The court also imposed Rs 5,000 as cost to be paid to Venkatamma within 30 days, failing which the brothers have to pay Rs 100 per day after 30 days.

Gopal and Mahesh contended that they do not have sufficient means to pay Rs 10,000 and they are willing to look after their mother.

CONTINUED ON: P10

DELHI DELUGE

Army steps in to tackle fresh floods

ANUP VERMA & AMIT PANDEY
@ New Delhi

THE flood situation in Delhi continued to remain grim on Friday with several areas of the city remaining submerged, even as the water level in swollen Yamuna started to ebb. Early in the day, a fresh crisis emerged as a water regulator operated by the Delhi Jal Board near the World Health Organization office in central Delhi was breached, triggering floods in several parts of ITO and the Rajghat.

The floodwaters also reached the doorstep of the Supreme Court, following which Delhi Chief Minister

Arvind Kejriwal and Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena visited the affected site to monitor the situation. To combat the backflow of water from the regulator, Army personnel and the National Disaster Relief Force were deployed.

As of Friday 7 pm, the water level in the Yamuna was at 208.17 metres — slightly down from 208.66 metres on Thursday evening. The Central Water Commission expects the water level to recede further to 208.05 metres or below overnight. Meanwhile, work is on to open five blocked gates at the ITO barrage, which are disrupting the flow of Yamuna water.

On a positive note, Kejriwal said the Okhla Water Treatment Plant, which was shut after flood waters inundated the plant, is functional again.

Can't control illegal sand mining: Min

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

REVENUE Minister Krishna Byregowda on Friday expressed the government's helplessness in controlling illegal sand mining and regulating its supply in the state.

Participating in a discussion on the issue in the Assembly he urged the members to give suggestions to curb illegal sand mining and regulate its trade.

The minister said the issue could not be resolved by successive governments.

"If we stop illegal sand mining, the price of sand will increase. If it is legalised by the government, more sand mining will take place. I have seen five governments that were unable to resolve this issue," he added.

MLAs Allama Prabhu Patil from Gulbarga South and MY Patil from Afzalpur constituen-



cies raised the issue of illegal sand mining. Allama Prabhu made a strong plea to stop illegal sand mining. Because of the increasing cost of sand, people are finding it difficult to construct houses, he said. He even referred to the murder of an official by the sand mafia.

Former minister and Yeswanthpur MLA ST Somashekhar, who raised the issue of illegal stone quarrying near

Bengaluru, said that in one case, license has been given for quarrying in 46 acres of land. But quarrying is being done in more than 100 acres of land.

He said blasting at quarries even at midnight was causing inconvenience to the people. Walls of many houses in the vicinity have developed cracks.

Congress MLA N Srinivas from Nelamangala constituency said, "When I raised the issue, they threatened me."

Responding to them, Byregowda said that this is happening across the state. "When we were in Opposition, I had suggested to the BJP government to levy a one-time penalty on illegal mining. Drones could be used to survey the illegal quarrying and sand mining areas," he added.

He said that he will ask the minister concerned to send officials to such illegal mining areas.

Foodgrains rushed to villages in MM Hills

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

OFFICIALS of the Department of Food and Civil Supplies on Friday rushed foodgrains and other essential commodities to tribal families living at Nagamale and nearby villages in MM Hills in Chamara Nagar district.

The officials swung into action a day after The New Indian Express published a report about the benefits of Anna Bhagya scheme not reaching the tribal families because of poor road connectivity.

They hired a goods vehicle and sent foodgrains and other items to the remote villages. They distributed foodgrains to over 40 tribal families.

The report, 'No Road, no Anna Bhagya for tribals of MM Hills', published on Thursday highlighted the plight of the tribals living in villages atop MM Hills. The only road from Pudur to Nagamale is in a pathetic condition as the Forest Department is not allowing authorities to asphalt it as the area falls under MM Hills Wildlife Sanctuary.

TNIE
IMPACT

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

ARE those from upper middle-class families keen on cosmetic surgeries? Yes, according to doctors. Many are now opting for different cosmetic procedures to look good and feel young. Interestingly, there has been a spike in consultations by both men and women in the age group of 18-50.

According to doctors in Bengaluru, there has been a 30% increase in cosmetic surgeries mainly due to greater awareness, affordable costs and accessibility.



CRASHING DOWN TO EARTH

A huge peepal tree was uprooted, damaging several vehicles on Cunningham Road in Bengaluru on Friday evening. Officials were left puzzled as the tree fell even when there was no heavy downpour or strong wind | SHASHIDHAR TRAPPA | P2

BEAUTY AND BOTOX

Tucking in and more for that charming look



Dr Suhas S, consultant plastic, cosmetic and reconstructive surgeon, Fortis Hospital, said, "Getting plastic surgery done can be very gratifying and life-

changing for patients in terms of improving their quality of life, self-image and their ability to be the best version of themselves."

He performs 10-15 non-surgical procedures a week.

Surgeons said the most common among cosmetic surgeries performed in the country are liposuction to reduce fat in one's body; tummy tuck, a post-pregnancy abdomen tightening surgery; rhinoplasty, nose correction; hair transplantation; breast augmentation; gynecomastia, male breast reduction; blepharoplasty, eye bag correc-

tion; arm and thigh lift; and genital-correction procedures.

Doctors in the city vouch for these procedures and said that they are performed in centres with good facilities and under expert supervision. "Most of them use world-class medical technologies that are safe and effective while maintaining utmost privacy and comfort," Dr Suhas said.

Another prominent surgery is "mommy makeover" where procedures are performed at one go for breast lift, tummy tuck, and liposuction of the stomach and lower body. P5